

Message Text

SECRET

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13

ORIGIN PM-07

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 EA-11 NEA-11 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 OMB-01 ACDA-19 /169 R

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NEA - MR. OBER

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EUR/NE - MR. BUELL

D - MR. SAMUEL

----- 128519

P R 292239Z JAN 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USLO PEKING

USINT CAIRO

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

AMEMBASSY MANILA

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

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AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AMEMBASSY MUSCAT
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
AMEMBASSY RANGOON
AMEMBASSY SANAA
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
AMEMBASSY TANANARIVE
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI
CINCEUR
CINCUSNAVEUR
CINCLANT

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COLOMBO ALSO FOR MALDIVES; KUWAIT ALSO PASS DOHA

CINCPAC CINCEUR CINCUSNAVEUR CINCLANT ALSO FOR POLADS

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS:MARR, UK, IO

SUBJECT:PARLIAMENTARY STATEMENT RE DIEGO GARCIA EXPANSION

1. JOHN THOMSON HAS ADVISED US THAT UK COMPELLED TO
ANSWER IN LORDS ON JANUARY 30 FOLLOWING QUERY LAID DOWN
BY LORD BROCKWAY:

"WHETHER THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF
AMERICA HAVE ASKED FOR PERMISSION TO BUILD A NAVAL BASE
AND AIRSTRIP EXTENSIONS ON THE ISLAND OF DIEGO GARCIA
IN THE INDIAN OCEAN; AND IF SO WHAT HAS BEEN THE REPLY."

2. THE FOLLOWING IS THE PROPOSED UK ANSWER:
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"IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE 1966 ANGLO/AMERICAN AGREEMENT
THE U.S. GOVERNMENT HAVE SOUGHT THE APPROVAL IN PRINCIPLE
OF HMG TO THE EXPANSION OF THE EXISTING FACILITIES AT
DIEGO GARCIA. THEY PROPOSE TO IMPROVE THE ANCHORAGE AND
THE AIRFIELD AS WELL AS TO PROVIDE CERTAIN FACILITIES FOR
MARITIME SUPPORT. HMG WELCOME THIS U.S. INITIATIVE, AND
DISCUSSIONS WITH THE U.S. GOVERNMENT ARE IN PROGRESS."

3. WE HAVE INFORMED THOMSON THAT WE WOULD PREFER MORE ANODYNE RESPONSE ALONG FOLLOWING LINES:

"IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE 1966 ANGO/AMERICAN AGREEMENT

DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN THE TWO GOVERNMENTS ARE IN PROCESS REGARDING POSSIBLE EXPANSION OF THE EXISTING FACILITIES AT DIEGO GARCIA. AN APPROPRIATE ANNOUNCEMENT WILL BE MADE WHEN THE DETAILS INVOLVED IN THESE DISCUSSIONS ARE WORKED OUT."

4. FCO HAS BEEN INSTRUCTED FROM BRITISH EMBASSY TO CONTACT JAMES REGARDING THIS. WE WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY KEEPING TABS ON PARLIAMENTARY PROCEEDINGS AND SENDING FINAL STATEMENT AS MADE TO ALL INFO ADDRESSEES.

5. FOR INFO ADDRESSEES: AS MOST POSTS ARE AWARE BY NOW FROM PRESS OR OTHER SOURCES, WE ARE ENGAGED IN DISCUSSIONS WITH BRITISH ON EXPANSION OF U.S. ACTIVITIES AT DIEGO GARCIA. SUBJECT TO WORKING OUT FINAL ARRANGEMENTS WITH BRITISH IT IS OUR INTENTION TO PROVIDE ALL ADDRESSEES AN AGREED US-UK RATIONALE FOR THE DIEGO PLANS ON WHICH APPROPRIATE POSTS, IN COORDINATION WITH BRITISH COUNTERPARTS, WOULD BE REQUESTED TO MAKE NOTIFICATION TO THEIR HOST GOVERNMENTS. WE HOPE WE CAN GET SOMETHING FURTHER ON THIS TO YOU IN THE VERY NEAR FUTURE. IN THE MEANTIME POSTS SHOULD LIMIT RESPONSES TO PRESS QUERIES TO SUBSTANCE OF PARAGRAPH 3 ABOVE. KISSINGER

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NNN

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